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Council to consider 400-home extension to Bretch Hill estate

# DEVELOPER IN HOMES OFFER

**PLANS** have been submitted for a major extension to Banbury's Bretch Hill estate.

Bloor Homes has asked if it can build up to 400 homes, with another 60 sheltered or "extra care" homes and a "small scale" employment space.

The land had been earmarked in Cherwell District Council's "local plan" as one of five sites where new estates could go over the coming two decades.

The plan will be welcomed by council bosses as a positive step by developers, which have been hit hard by the recession.

A lack of interest by developers has led to firms arguing for homes on rural sites not backed by the council, to the anger of

**By Oliver Evans**

residents. For example, work has yet to start on 1,070 homes approved for the "Bankside" estate off Oxford Road.

But Bloor strategic planning director Steve MacPherson said his firm would be "very keen" to start building on the Bretch Hill site by mid-2014 – for homes to go on sale later that year.

He said: "Over the last three to four years we haven't stopped building houses. "Delivery is an important aspect for the local authority and it is also an important aspect for us."

The Bloor Homes plan – involving the far

western side of Banbury, off Edinburgh Way – are only in the outline stage and finer details would need further council approval.

It pledges 30 per cent of the homes would be affordable, which would offer cut-price rents through a housing association.

The estate would be a mixture of terrace, semi-detached and detached properties.

Starter business units and training facilities would go at the south east of the site.

Access would be from Bretch Hill and Edinburgh Way and through a three-way roundabout on Stratford Road.

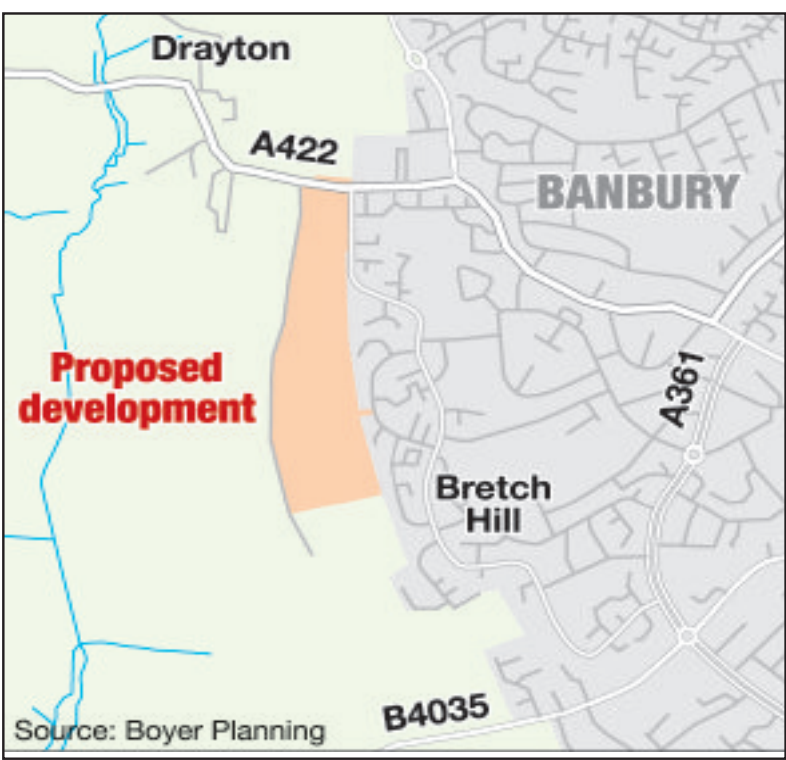
Sean Woodcock, Labour council group leader and councillor for the area, said the party was "cautiously supportive" after meeting Bloor to raise residents' concerns about extra traffic and street parking.

He said: "They have been very convincing and accommodating. They have taken on board a lot of what we have had to say."

The top of the site would be opposite North Oxfordshire Academy, formerly Drayton School.

Headteacher Sara Billins said the plan – along with another planned estate off Warwick Road – did "not necessarily" mean the school would have to expand, though more primary places would be needed.

She said: "We see it as an opportunity rather than a threat in terms of the potential it offers to develop the site, particularly around our sports facilities."



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## 'Active' play day planned for town

A SERIES of free play days for families are coming to Oxfordshire this summer.

There will be 12 events held across the county, staged by organiser Oxfordshire Play Association.

Thousands of residents are expected to join in with the activities, which will include a climbing wall, mobile skate park and go-karting.

Besides Banbury, locations will also include Bicester, Oxford's Rose Hill, Eynsham, Abingdon and there will be five Armed Forces Playdays held at Oxfordshire barracks.

Each play day costs £4,000 to run. This has been supported by grants from organisations including the Ministry of Defence, Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council.

Oxfordshire Play Association manager Martin Gillett said: "The aim is to get families out playing together, being physically active and get them off the sofa."

"It is free, so it is a great day for no money."

Banbury's event will be staged from 11am to 3pm on Wednesday, July 24, in People's Park, Banbury

Last year the association's 12 events were attended by 16,000 people.

■ Extra 100 homes near Hardwick

# Re-drawing the planning policy map

By Oliver Evans

**FIELDS north of Hardwick, in Banbury, will be allocated for another 100 new homes as part of a revised council planning policy document – to concern most residents.**

The land, north of Hanwell Fields between Warwick Road and Dukes Meadow Drive, will be earmarked for 500, instead of 400, homes.

The change is in Cherwell District Council's latest consultation on its draft "Local Plan", which lays out where it will allow major development through until 2031.

The Hanwell Fields homes would help offset a cut from 800 to 600 new homes on land either side of Southam Road.

This change was in response to "development challenges" of land west of Southam Road, which will now take no more than 90 homes.

And a long-mooted plan for 1,050 homes at Canalside, south of the train station, has been cut to 950.

Hanwell Fields Development Action Group chairman Malcolm Finch said the increase was "disgraceful".

He said: "We don't believe Hanwell Fields or Southam Road should be on the Local Plan – for the simple reason neither of them are what you would term sustainable."

"They are so disconnected from everything else."

Developer plans for up to 1,000 homes south of the Salt Way path, off Oxford Road to the south of Banbury, are more suitable, he said.

Persimmon Homes applied for planning permission in December for 350 homes at Hanwell Fields, though the council has yet to make a decision.

Amber Developments has also consulted residents on plans for 160 homes on the site.

Other changes in the consultation document include the addition of homes to a redevelopment of Banbury's Bolton Road area.

This would include a shopping development on the site of Gala Bingo and the multi-storey car park, which would be replaced.

The various updates mean the Local Plan will not be approved by the council and sent to the Government for

final approval until May 15 at the earliest.

Council planning chief Michael Gibbard said this was six months later than first planned.

The lack of a Local Plan has led to developers pressing for housing to be built on sites not favoured by the council.

Conservative Mr Gibbard said: "That has always been a concern, there has been that risk."

The re-writing of national planning rules by ministers had delayed the plan, he said.

But he said the final Local Plan "would signal the end of speculative development".

● Berkeley Homes has re-applied to the council to build 65 homes south of Milton Road, Adderbury.

Councillors threw out a similar scheme last year and this was upheld on appeal at the Planning Inspectorate.

The firm said the new scheme had a revised layout, with more courtyards and a smaller footprint.

● Respond to the consultation at [cherwell.gov.uk/localplan2013](http://cherwell.gov.uk/localplan2013). Copies of the draft Local Plan are also available in libraries and the district council's offices in White Post Road, Bodicote.



## Stately home lays out Easter trail for children

**THREE generations of a Bloxham family took part in an Easter trail around Chastleton House at the weekend.**

Sarah Rolls, 38; her daughter, Isabella, seven, and mother Gwyneth Moss, 62, visited the National Trust attraction on Saturday.

They took part in a search for crossword clues around the

picturesque gardens and, after completing the Easter-themed quiz, won a chocolate egg.

Mrs Rolls said: "It was lovely to have an event there for the children."

Isabella, pictured, said: "It was fun because we could run around and have a chocolate egg at the end."

"The gardens are really pretty."

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## Jobless queues buck the trend

OXFORDSHIRE dole queues are lengthening again, bucking the national trend.

For the third month in a row, the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance has risen in the county.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics show 7,225 people claimed a jobseeker's allowance in February, a rise of 383 on the previous month.

Nationally, the claimant count dropped by 1,500 to 1.54m.

Experts are struggling to explain the continuing rise in claimants, but the new figures show the county's biggest employer, Oxfordshire County Council, has seen its headcount drop from 20,564 to 20,317 in the last year.

Small numbers of job losses have also been made in the retail sector, with the closure of Jessops camera stores and Blockbuster video outlets – but the private sector has not witnessed major cuts in the last few months.

The figures also show that there are 1,931 fewer claimants than last year.



■ Clinical commissioning group takes over from old Primary Care Trust

# New era launched in county's NHS history

By Tom Jennings

**A NEW era for the NHS in Oxfordshire began this week.**

A GP-led organisation has taken over the reins of running the county's health service from the Primary Care Trust.

The newly-created Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group will be buying in most hospital and community health services for local people.

But its first big challenge is that it needs to find savings of £25.6m in its first year to meet its budget of £650m.

OCCG bosses say they hope to save some of the cash by reducing the number of patients being sent to hospitals. To do this, they plan to stop "inappropriate" GP referrals to hospitals and improve doctors' knowledge of alternative ways of treating patients.

But they have also promised care will become more patient-centred, with those making the decisions still working on the frontline.

The new clinical commissioning group was created by the Government to move away from the manager-led commissioning of PCTs and bring clinicians, including GPs, into the process.

The groups will commission non-emergency operations, treatment for common cancers, A&E, maternity, mental health and community services.

But the changes have proved controversial, with some

labelling them "privatisation through the back door". Others are concerned about GPs having conflicts of interest.

OCCG chief clinical officer Dr Stephen Richards said the biggest challenge would be managing budgets while at the same time maintaining patient safety and healthcare quality.

This was because, compared with the rest of England, Oxfordshire was the third or fourth lowest-funded group – as it was seen as relatively healthy and affluent.

But he vowed front-line services would not be cut.

He said: "There will be radical solutions. We need to use resources in community hospitals better. We also need to find ways of moving care closer to people."

"We will be working across health and social care to increase care in patients' homes."

"We are looking to reverse the trend of increased urgent admission to the Horton and John Radcliffe hospitals."

Efforts would be made to slash the number of "unnecessary" outpatient follow-up appointments, he said, while a new computer system would ensure better links between GPs, consultants and commissioners. The new organisation also faces the additional challenge of operating with a staff of 95, compared with 223 people who had been employed by Oxfordshire PCT.

Clinical board members, including Dr Richards himself, will still work at their GP practices.

Dr Richards, who works one

day a week at his Woodcote practice, said: "I am not over-stretched. It is doable."

"It is extremely valuable, both to maintain contact with patients and to understand the challenges facing GP colleagues and their teams."

Dr Richards said the timescale of the changes, set by the

Government, had been "extremely tight" but said the group was in a good position.

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is the fourth largest in the country and one of the first to be launched.

Patient Voice chairman Jacquie Pearce-Gervis said: "I think patients are confused. They

would like to know what difference this will make."

"People are hoping it will mean a greater say in their care and where they can get it."

Kelvin Aubrey, of health workers' union Unison, said: "The pressure on CCGs to privatise services to save money will be intense."



Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's chief clinical officer Dr Stephen Richards

## Banbury Cake

EDITOR  
Simon O'Neill 01865 425450

NEWS EDITOR  
01865 425500

PICTURE EDITOR  
01865 425446

Email letters to  
letters@banburycake.co.uk

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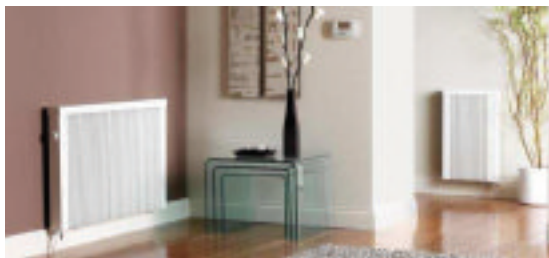


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# Some chilling facts

**WHAT** a difference a year makes. In March, 2012, families were enjoying ice cream in the sunshine and a hosepipe ban was about to come into force as temperatures in Oxfordshire soared.

But now that warm weather is a distant memory,

By Emma Harrison

and March, 2013, is Oxfordshire's coldest for more than 50 years, according to Oxford University figures.

Last month's mean temperature, recorded by staff at the Radcliffe Meteorological Station, is 3.5C – which

is 2.3C colder than the average 5.8C normally expected and the coldest recorded since 1962.

By contrast, the average temperature for March, 2012, was 8.3C – which was in the top ten warmest since their records began in 1767. The highest temperature recorded by the Met Office in March, 2012, was 21.3C on March 28.

Postgraduate Ian Ashpole, 26, who is studying dust storms in the Saharan Desert, takes the measurements for the Radcliffe Meteorological Station.

The meteorological observer said: "What I find most interesting is that it has been incredibly cold."

In March, 2012, an average temperature of 8.1C was recorded for Oxfordshire, with the average maximum temperature reaching 13.3C and the lowest average temperature 2.8C.

But this year, temperatures from a Met Office observation site in Benson show that between Monday, March 18, and Monday, March 25, the highest temperature recorded was 8.9C and the lowest -4.2C.

Met Office forecaster Helen Roberts said: "It looks as though there will be no real let-up in the cold weather for the foreseeable future."

"Snow is unlikely, but there could be the odd snow flurry, just a few flakes blowing through."

The Radcliffe Meteorological Station recorded 77.4mm of rainfall this March – resulting in higher river levels and a series of flood alerts being issued by the Environment Agency.

Only 24.3mm was recorded in March 2012 – about 70 per cent less than this year.

## College in apprentice plea to car companies

**BANBURY** businesses are being sought to provide on-the-job training for a new motor vehicle apprenticeship.

Oxford & Cherwell Valley College will launch the scheme when a £6m extension to its Broughton Road campus is complete this September.

Firms are being sought to take on apprentices, help develop skills of existing staff or provide a work-based element of the course.

Principal Sally Dicketts said: "The redevelopment of the Banbury campus will provide students with first-class facilities, to help equip them for successful careers."

"We are keen to maximise the potential of these facilities and the launch of the new apprenticeship programme will also help to meet local employment and training needs."

"They also enable local employers to invest in their workforce and their business by recruiting employees with contemporary skills and relevant qualifications."

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**LEFT: March 26, 2012 –** Going for a run in the spring sunshine



**RIGHT: March 18, 2013 –** Wendy Tobitt, of BBOWT, searches for snowdrops in the snow

## Temperatures from the Radcliffe Meteorological Station

	Maximum temperature	Minimum temperature	Rainfall
Monday, March 18	7.1C (2013) 8.2C (2012)	-3.1C (2013) 1.5C (2012)	0.4mm (2013) 0.2mm (2012)
Tuesday, March 19	8.1C (2013) 13.1C (2012)	-0.4C (2013) 0.2C (2012)	0.4mm (2013) 0mm (2012)
Wednesday, March 20	4.5C (2013) 15.2C (2012)	0.1C (2013) 4.2C (2012)	0mm (2013) 0mm (2012)
Thursday, March 21	6.4C (2013) 15C (2012)	0.6C (2013) 5.5C (2012)	8.6mm (2013) 0mm (2012)
Friday, March 22	6.2C (2013) 18C (2012)	1.5C (2013) 2.6C (2012)	13.8mm (2013) 0mm (2012)
Saturday, March 23	1.1C (2013) 18.9C (2012)	0.4C (2013) 4.5C (2012)	1.2mm (2013) 0mm (2012)
Sunday, March 24	1C (2013) 20C (2012)	-1C (2013) 3.5C (2012)	0mm (2013) 0mm (2012)
Monday, March 25	2C (2013) 16.7C (2012)	-0.7C (2013) 3.6C (2012)	0mm (2013) 0mm (2012)

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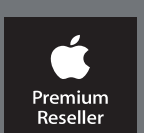
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Students hope to have built electric winner

# Sparks to fly at US Grand Prix

By Oliver Evans

**ENGINEERING student Sean Oliver, from Banbury, aims to defend the University of Warwick Championship title at this year's Electric Vehicle Grand Prix in the United States.**

As part of a team of eight, the students have designed and built an electric-powered kart, reducing its weight by 20 per cent over last year's winning vehicle and so making it faster on the track.

The competition consists of two races, the first on the Purdue track on April 27, and the second at the Indy Motor Sports circuit on May 12.

The team will not only be assessed on the performance of the kart in the race, but also what they have done to educate their community about electrical engineering.

The racing team have also been involved with the Imagination Fair and Nissan Formula Student event,

where they have showcased their electric-powered racer to the public.

Chief engineer Sean Oliver said: "I'm expecting us to do really well. Last year's vehicle was highly competitive but we've focused on all of its weak points and improved on them.

"The major issue last year was reliability, which we believe we've now fixed. Hopefully we should be topping the results this year.

"The biggest challenge we will face is the Americans' now realise what we're capable of and will be better prepared. Additionally they saw how last year's winning Warwick EVGP kart worked and will be copying our ideas. To overcome this we hope this year's innovations are better than the Americans'."

As well as defending their EVGP championship title, the team plan to launch a UK-based EVGP competition with the race being held at the Sustainable Moto Expo 2013 from September 28 to 29.

The event involves universities from both the UK and the USA competing in a wheel-to-wheel race,

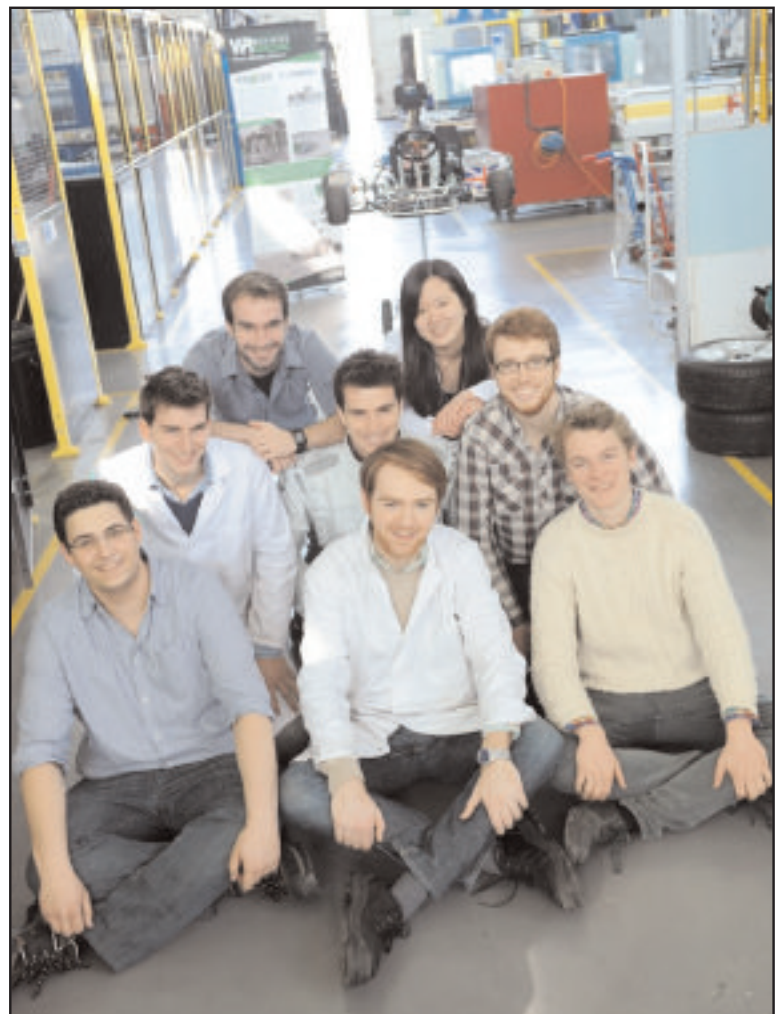
a design competition and an eco-challenge. The team is supervised by Dr James Meredith, of the Warwick Manufacturing Group. He said:

"After winning in 2012, we knew that our kart was a good platform. This year we have concentrated on powertrain efficiency and removing weight.

"The team has spent significant time in our vehicle energy facility optimising and matching each of the battery cells to increase performance. Furthermore, they have developed a new motor control strategy which will enhance power output whilst using less energy.

"On the chassis, weight savings have been found from use of titanium and magnesium alloys as well as advanced composite materials. We are looking forward to this year's competition and are hoping to perform as well as last year."

Anyone interested in sponsoring the team should email project leader and sponsorship manager Evangelos Contoleon at [e.e.contoleon@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:e.e.contoleon@warwick.ac.uk)



Student Sean Oliver, second row right, with his team and their electric-powered kart

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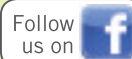
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# Results revealed of RSPB's 'Birdwatch' Survey reveals decline of birds



A house sparrow

By Pete Hughes

**THE number of house sparrows in your garden has fallen by a fifth over the past year, new figures show.**

The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch survey in January also indicated the number of blue tits, starlings, chaffinches, goldfinches, great tits and robins in Oxfordshire have also decreased in the past 12 months.

For the survey, 10,015 people in Oxfordshire spent an hour in their gardens counting the birds.

Spotters were asked to look out for the commonest garden visitors, and count the maximum number of each species at any one time, to avoid counting the same bird twice.

Results show that the average number of house sparrows in Oxfordshire gardens fell from 4.1 last year to 3.2 this year.

The numbers of six other species also declined, while the number of blackbirds sighted increased from 2.3 to 2.7, and numbers of woodpigeons stayed the same.

RSPB Oxfordshire spokesman Fen Gerry said one of the reasons for the decline could be the loss of natural habitats. But Dr Graham Lenton, who has a PhD in ornithology and who counted birds in his garden in Ducklington, thought it might have been Britain's appalling summer.

He said: "This is obviously disappointing.

"You have to remember that the summer before was disastrous in terms of breeding conditions because of the weather, so these results may be a reflection of that.

"Interestingly the weekend of the survey was very cold. We certainly did not have as many in our garden as we normally have."

The cold weather on the weekend of January 26, when the survey was carried out, may actually mask the true decline in the overall population of these species.

Ms Gerry said that more birds would have been driven into gardens in the hunt for food by that cold weather.

Talking about the population falls, Ms Gerry said: "Arable farming now is so much more industrialised, but that is just one factor of many. Climate change is another reason."

The Oxfordshire figures were in line with national data gathered from 590,000 people across the UK, showing a 17.4 per cent decline in house sparrows, a 15.9 per cent drop in starlings and 10.1 per cent fewer goldfinches.

RSPB conservation director Martin Harper said: "Several of our familiar and best-loved species have been declining at alarming rates over the 34 years that the RSPB has been running the birdwatch. This year's results show a continuing decline.

"Gardens make up around four per cent of land area in the UK and their role as habitats for our wildlife is clear.

"They are the places that birds come to for food and shelter when conditions in the countryside are especially tough. Together, we can all play a part in making them more welcoming and supportive for wildlife, whether we have a garden full of greenery, a yard or a window box."

## GARDEN BIRDS THEN AND NOW

BIRD	2012	2013
House sparrow	4.1	3.2
Blackbird	2.3	2.7
Blue Tit	2.8	2.5
Woodpigeon	2.1	2.1
Starling	2.2	1.8
Chaffinch	2.0	1.7
Goldfinch	2.0	1.6
Great tit	1.5	1.3
Long tailed tit	N/A	1.3
Robin	1.3	1.2
Collared dove	1.2	n/a

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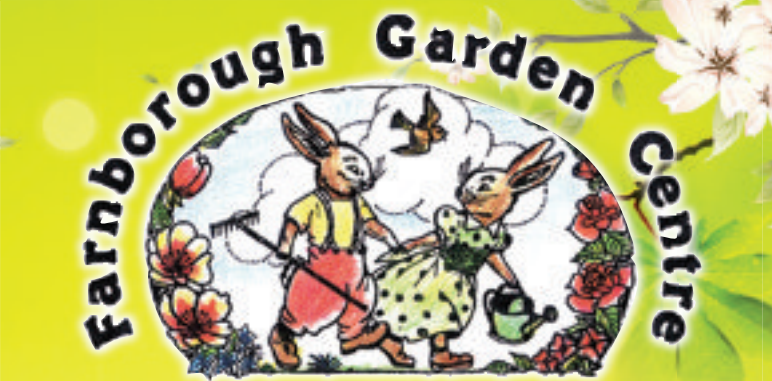
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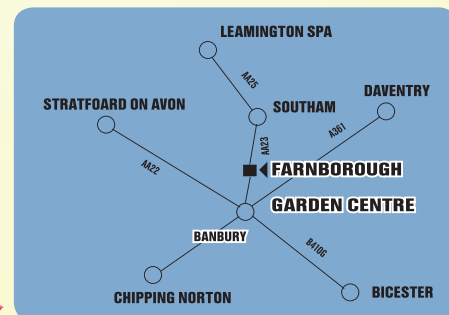
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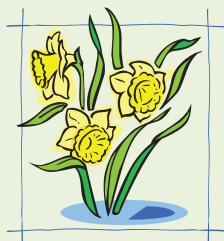
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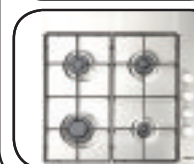


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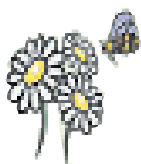


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# Meet the dance divas who had a real 'ball'

**YOUNGSTERS** from primary schools across North Oxfordshire have been having a "ball" dancing the waltz and samba.

About 150 children learned the steps to ballroom and latin dances for a Strictly Children Performance Showcase, loosely based on the BBC television show *Strictly Come Dancing*.

The schools who took part included Five Acres, Ambrosden; Bure Park and Glory Farm, from Bicester; Harriers Ground, Hanwell Fields, Blessed George Napier, all Banbury; Bloxham School, and Adderbury-based Christopher Rawlins.

The winning team was Bicester's Langford Village School. Children were put through their paces over six weeks in the run-up to the contest.

Teaching assistants at the schools had been trained by Step By Step Dance School, in partnership with the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, who in turn taught the children.

Each school team, made up of 16 pupils, performed two routines – a samba and a waltz.

Ambra Law, 43, a teaching assistant at Langford Village School, who trained the youngsters, said: "The children worked hard

and were really committed. They went off in their break times and lunch times to practise. It was a team performance so the children were dancing almost in format, there were eight couples in total."

Mrs Law is herself no stranger to the dance floor. She started lessons with Step By Step about five years ago and is now ranked third in Great Britain in Latin dancing on the amateur circuit.

Because space at the schools contest at Sibford School, near Banbury, was limited, Langford pupils performed their dance pieces again to family and friends on Friday.



The Langford dance team pictured in action

■ Fiona signs up for event after losing five friends to breast cancer

# Charity walker's time to remember friends



Fiona Molnar, who is taking part in her fourth Pink Ribbonwalk for the five friends she has lost to breast cancer

OX51883

By Ellie Simmonds

**FIONA Molnar came fourth in last year's Pink Ribbonwalk in a time of four hours and 40 minutes.**

Now the mother-of-two from Bodicote is wondering if she can top that in this year's event.

Mrs Molnar, 54, will be among hundreds of people taking part in the Ribbonwalk at Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, on Saturday, May 11. Walkers tackle a ten- or 20-mile route through the picturesque grounds, raising sponsorship for Breast Cancer Care's support of breast cancer patients as they go. Mrs Molnar said: "When I came in fourth last year and then found out the time I had taken I was pretty amazed and pleased too.

"I've signed up for this year's event, which will be my fifth

Ribbonwalk, but I don't know if I'll better last year's efforts."

Mrs Molnar was 29 and living in Australia when she found a lump in her breast.

She underwent surgery where the lump was found to be benign, but since then she has lost five loved ones to breast cancer.

She explained: "A close friend died of breast cancer, along with four other friends and relations, while two others have survived it.

"Taking part in my first Ribbonwalk in 2009 was a rather strange experience. I went alone, did the 20-mile walk and walked as fast as I could. When it came around to signing up the following year it just felt natural and has ever since.

"I still walk it alone and just go for it! I suppose I must have raised around £1,000 for Breast Cancer Care by now."

Now approaching her 100th Pink Ribbonwalk mile, Mrs Molnar encouraged others to sign up.

She said: "It's very inspiring and uplifting and you feel a real sense of achievement – of really helping a worthwhile cause."

The Pink Ribbonwalk raises funds for the charity Breast Cancer Care, which provides free information, support and services to anyone affected by breast cancer.

Walkers choose either a ten- or 20-mile course around Blenheim and its surrounding villages and registration costs £30, with walkers required to raise a minimum of £175 sponsorship.

The event is followed by a village fete-style celebration, which includes a medal, free barbecue, massage and entertainment.

Register to take part at: [www.pinkribbonwalk.org.uk](http://www.pinkribbonwalk.org.uk) or call 0870 145 0101.

## InBRIEF

### Work starts on 'shared' homes

■ WORK has started on 15 new shared-ownership homes in Middleton Road, Banbury. The homes – to be completed later this year – are part of a plan for 40 in Cherwell. They will be completed through Sanctuary Housing, the Homes and Communities Agency and Cherwell District Council. The council's housing chief, Debbie Pickford, said: "It is great to see work begin on a number of properties which, once completed, will provide much-needed homes for the residents of our district."

### Shopfront rules

■ NEW guidance on shop fronts and advertising will be discussed by councillors next month. Cherwell District Council has drawn up the guidelines, which cover issues like canopies, signage and lettering. Its executive will be asked to approve the new rules on Monday.

### Charity date

■ ST George's Day entertainment will raise cash for children on Saturday, April 20. The Banbury Trades & Labour Club, in West Bar Street, Banbury, will host DJs from 1pm to 1am to raise cash for Frank Wise School and the Let's Play Project.



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**InBRIEF****Station gets 'safe' award**

**BANBURY** railway station has been awarded secure station status. The national scheme, run by British Transport Police and the Department for Transport, recognises that suitable measures are in place to deter crime and antisocial behaviour. Jennifer Payne, Chiltern Railways' customer service director, said: "We're always looking at ways to make our trains and stations safer and it is great news that this has been recognised."

**Alumni launch**

**OXFORD** and Cherwell Valley College has launched an alumni association. It is open to all former students, including those who went to the Banbury campus. The association is also open to North Oxfordshire College Banbury and Rycotewood College. The college said members would get careers help and support, library resources and discounts at campus restaurants and salons. It said the association would help connect former students to "share experiences and provide an informal support network". See: alumni.ocvc.ac.uk

# Axe falls on the region's police stations



Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld

By Mark Taylor

**POLICE bosses pledged the public would see no cut in dealing with officers, despite a plan to save £839,000 by axing and replacing several offices and bases in Oxfordshire.**

Thames Valley Police believes it can make the huge savings as part of an asset overhaul.

Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood said front counter services would not be reduced and no staffing would be affected.

Kidlington Police Station is to close and merge with the force headquarters in Oxford Road to save £26,300 per year. Seven satellite offices are also to shut and move to the headquarters, saving £500,000.

Mr Habgood said: "We have to look at several things, how cost effective, how efficient, how fit for purpose is it?"

"No public access points are being cut as part of the work.

"Where a station is being

closed then it is always being replaced with a building with similar access. The only closures are a few neighbourhood offices which are not public access but touchdown places.

"With the future investment we are trying to create a situation through new technology where the office is in the community rather than in the station."

Mr Habgood defended the



£3.7m Thames Valley Police spent on its new Kidlington HQ, saying the old buildings were in a poor state of repair and required considerable sums just to keep them functional.

He added: "There are a whole list of units that will be based here – including the chief officer team who have already moved to an open plan office to save space."

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld said "buildings do not catch crooks".

He said: "The police service has made quite considerable cuts over the last three years and policing is changing.

"Many of the buildings are on leases that are running out and it will be more cost effective to use the money elsewhere, putting officers on the streets."

Deputy Chief Constable Francis Habgood



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# ■ Oxfordshire site is a UK first New 'green' website to boost bids for funding

By Pete Hughes

COMMUNITY groups will be able to work out their impact on the environment, thanks to a unique new website launched in Oxfordshire.

Groups can upload the details of their events, transport and recycling initiatives to see exactly how green they really are.

For example, volunteers can input details from an event like a swap shop, to calculate the weight of waste saved by landfill.

The website, launched by Community Action Groups, is thought to be the first of its kind in the UK.

Groups can also record the number of people attending events, their carbon footprint from each event and cost savings to members of the public, before sharing the information with each other.

By collecting the data, it is hoped groups can not only improve the impact of their actions, but also boost their chances when applying for funding.

CAG's Peter Lefort said: "This is a unique undertaking which could potentially change the face of community action, as it attempts to measure what has previously been unmeasurable."

"This is happening in Oxfordshire and nowhere else because of the unique network of environmental community groups here."

One group already taking advantage of the new site is Sustainable Wantage.

They used the website to calculate that it saved more than a tonne of waste from landfill at two swap shops earlier this year.

Group chairman Mim Norvell said: "I think this is a useful tool. It means you can tangibly justify your actions when seeking funding, although it is obviously hard to capture the ripple effect of these events which is equally important."

"I am definitely warming to it - I was dubious at first but when there is funding involved you need to be able to see what you have actually done."

"Now I am completely behind it."

CAG Oxfordshire has an annual budget of around £90,000 from Oxfordshire County Council, and gives each of its 45 registered groups an annual stipend of £200, as well as awarding grants for individual projects.

But CAG also helps groups to apply for funding from other bodies, such as the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment - TOE2.

Between April 2012 and March 2013, community groups in Oxfordshire raised £400,000 in external funding, and the year before that the figure was £880,000.

TOE2 administrator Fiona Danks said: "This is a brilliant idea."

"I present applications for funding to the board of directors, and the chairman always asks the 'so what?' question - what difference is this going to make?"

"Having this data will make it much easier to judge the effectiveness of a project."

For more information, see [cagoxfordshire.org.uk](http://cagoxfordshire.org.uk)



Peter Lefort



Mim Norvell

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## Hats off to youth

# Seussical

■ Youth of Banbury Operatic Society offer a dramatic high note



**Calling all budding musical theatre stars who might like to throw their hat into the ring.**

YOBOS – the Youth of Banbury Operatic Society – is offering local youngsters the not-to-be-missed chance to take part in *Seussical* – a fantastical, magical musical extravaganza to be staged in August this year.

“YOBOS is an exciting musical theatre project for young people aged between 12 and 18” said Lis Irons, convenor for the society.

“We give them a taste of what it takes to star in a musical – both on stage and behind the scenes. The society will rehearse and set the show in just one week during the summer holidays [August 10–18], ending with three performances to a paying audience.

“We welcome young people who want to indulge their hobby, learn new skills, make new friends, build their

confidence and find out more about what it is like to be in a show.”

YOBOS is a well-established group dedicated to providing young people living in Banbury and the town's surrounding areas an opportunity to experience what it is like to take part in a fully staged production and give them an opportunity to showcase their talents.

Previous productions include *Hairspray*, *Rent*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *Crazy for You*, *Fame*, *Bugsy Malone*, *Anything Goes*, *Barnum*, *The Hot Mikado* and *Honk!*

Anyone who is interested in taking part and wants to find out more is invited to attend the ‘taster day’ on Sunday, April 14, at Kings Sutton Village Hall between 2pm and 6pm, for a charge of £5.

“We welcome young people who have a passion for acting, singing and dancing or who want to learn more about set design, theatre lighting and sound, stage

management, wardrobe, and hair and make-up design,” added Lis.

“And they can be sure of a warm welcome from this friendly and supportive group. This year we have two former members of YOBOS, Ben Coleman and Robbie Fell, jointly directing and choreographing the show, which promises to be a truly memorable production.”

Ben said: “I have appeared in many YOBOS productions and speak from personal experience when I say how enjoyable it is to take part.

“We work hard, but everyone learns so much. I am delighted to be working with Robbie on this year's production of *Seussical*, which is one of the most performed shows in America.

“Based on the Dr Seuss books, the musical brings to life the characters Horton, The Cat in the Hat and the Whos and we are transported from the Jungle of

**A youth performance of *Seussical* in Illinois last year**



Nool to the Circus McGurkus to the invisible world of the Whos.

“With a score that varies in style from Latin to pop, swing to gospel, and R&B to funk there is something for everyone.

“So why not come to the taster day and find out more?”

■ For more information, call Lis Irons, YOBOS convenor on 07799 476544 or email [yobosenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:yobosenquiries@gmail.com)

## Glittering tribute to icon

If Neil Diamond's hits, such as *Sweet Caroline*, *Cracklin' Rosie*, *Song Sung Blue*, *Beautiful Noise* and *Red Red Wine* are to your taste, don't miss an evening dedicated to the legendary singer at The Mill, Banbury, next Thursday.

The Songs and Story of Neil Diamond is an entertaining show by Dominic Finley – of the chart-topping band Cutting Crew (best known for their number one hit *I Just Died in Your Arms Tonight*).

Finley is a British singer-songwriter now living in Melbourne. It goes without saying he is one of the world's biggest Neil Diamond fans who has brought this show from the other side of the globe for the delight of all like-minded music lovers.

“This is a new show for The Mill and it's one we think is going to prove popular,” said The Mill's Deborah Clarke.

“Neil Diamond is such an icon. There can't be many people who would not be able to sing along with his greatest hits. “But this show is more than just a music

evening because it is designed and presented by someone who is a huge talent and who knows the career of Neil Diamond inside out.”

During the show, Neil Diamond's music is performed in a chronological order from songs from the mid-sixties (*Solitary Man*, *Cherry Cherry* and *Girl You'll Be A Woman Soon*) through to the platinum-selling *Jazz Singer* album (*Love On the Rocks* and *America*).

Other songs such as *I Am – I Said*, *Done Too Soon* and *Porcupine Pie* are also taken in and the performance is laced with facts and stories. It is an exciting and informative one-man show that pays homage to one of the world's most respected and admired performers and songwriters.

The show has proved to be extremely popular in Australia, unsurprising in the light of the 29 weeks Neil Diamond's album *Hot August Night* spent at the top of the Australian charts.

And Diamond's final concert of his 1976 Australian tour – the ‘thank you Australia’ concert – remains to this day the country's most-watched music event.



**Girl's best friend: Dominic Finley will perform all the best-loved Neil Diamond hits**

Dominic Finley has a unique and uncanny ability to morph his own powerful talents as a singer and musician into the character of Neil Diamond. He has released three solo albums, had three of his music tutor books published, and performed all over the world as a touring/session musician.

■ Neil Diamond – His Story And Songs comes to The Mill, Banbury, on Thursday, April 11, at 8pm. Tickets are £10-12. Call the box office on 01295 279002.

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# All guns blazing as GI Joe returns to our 3D screens

**GI JOE: RETALIATION 3D** (12A, 110 mins) Action/Thriller/Sci-Fi. Dwayne Johnson, DJ Cotrona, Adrianne Palicki, Channing Tatum, Lee Byung-hun, Elodie Yung, Jonathan Pryce, Ray Stevenson, Bruce Willis, Ray Park, Arnold Vosloo, Luke Bracey. Director: Jon M Chu.

If at first you don't succeed, churn out a sequel. The original *G.I. Joe* film, subtitled *The Rise Of Cobra*, opened at the peak of the 2009 summer blockbuster season to a blitzkrieg of largely negative reviews.

Aimed predominantly at teenage boys with limited attention spans, the all-guns-blazing romp based on the popular line of military action figures stormed past \$300m in worldwide box office takings.

Money talks louder than a flimsy script, weak characterisation and clumsy digital effects, so director Jon M Chu (*Step Up 3D*) loads for this bigger-budget sequel, which raises the action ante with eye-popping set pieces and bruising showdowns.

*G.I. Joe: Retaliation* is slicker and more entertaining than its predecessor, although the bar wasn't set particularly high.

Screenwriters Rhett Reese and Paul Wernick sensibly kill off swathes of their cast in the explosive opening sequence in order to focus attention on a handful of undernourished characters.

Once the dust settles, we learn that arch-villain Cobra Commander

(Luke Bracey) is in stasis in a subterranean prison, while his henchman Zartan (Arnold Vosloo) is installed in the White House, impersonating the President of the United States (Jonathan Pryce).

Zartan frames the G.I. Joes as traitors to the American cause and wipes out most of the brave men and women in order to clear the way for the rise of the Cobra terrorist network.

Roadblock (Dwayne Johnson), Flint (DJ Cotrona) and Lady Jaye (Adrianne Palicki) survive the bloodbath and quickly realise that the order to terminate must have come from the upper echelons of power.

"There's only one man who could authorise an attack like that," growls Roadblock, "and I voted for him."

So the Joes march back to American soil and seek help from legendary retired operative General Joseph Colton (Bruce Willis).

Meanwhile, evil agent Firefly (Ray Stevenson) masterminds the Cobra Commander's escape and mute swordsman Snake Eyes (Ray Park) and ninja Jinx (Elodie Yung) travel to the Himalayas to capture heinous henchman Storm Shadow (Lee Byung-hun).

*G.I. Joe: Retaliation* is preoccupied with spectacle over substance, but does deliver a few pulse-racing thrills and spills that make good use of the 3D.

The cliff-hanging Himalayas sword fight incorporates vertiginous shots of bodies tumbling to terra firma, and when Firefly unleashes a



Dwayne Johnson, as Roadblock, in a scene from the film *GI Joe: Retaliation 3D*

Picture: PA Photo/Jaimie Trueblood/Paramount

swarm of tiny mechanised insects, they buzz about the screen, apparently close enough to swat.

Johnson, Channing Tatum, Willis and co flex their pecs, discharge hundreds of bullets and perform gravity-defying leaps in the name of world peace, but they still can't save London from being reduced to rubble by a nuclear detonation.

That's the price we pay for turning our noses up to the first film.

## CakeWhat's on

### Music

#### THURSDAY

##### The Theatre, Spring Street,

**Chipping Norton:** The Shee. All-female band with a brew of folk, Scots, Gaelic and bluegrass, plus clog dancing. £14, concession £12. 7.45pm. 01608 642350.

#### FRIDAY

##### The Wheatsheaf, George Street,

**Banbury:** Metal Night at The Sheaf. Visionfall area a five-piece metalcore band from Oxfordshire. I Cried Wolf are a five-piece metalcore band from Banbury: a combined frenzy of metal and hardcore backed with a vicious live performance. From Eden To Exile are a new band hailing from the Midlands, looking to write intense music with freedom, without "genre" boundaries and ultimately music that sounds good. 8pm. Free. 01295 266525.

#### SATURDAY

##### Church of SS Peter and Paul,

##### Church Street, Deddington:

Piano Recital by Geoffrey Hopkins.

Programme: Beethoven –

Appassionata Sonata Lennox

Berkeley – 6 Preludes Chopin – Berger – 3rd Scherzo Wagner/Liszt – Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde Liszt – Mephisto Waltz no.1. 7.30pm. £12 (£10). **Coach and Horses, The Green, Banbury:** Jamie Felton. Talented singer and guitarist makes his debut. Free. 9pm. 01295 810422.

### Theatre

#### The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Apr 4, *Growing Old Disgracefully*, written and performed by Virginia Ironside, directed by Nigel Planer. £10. Presented by Scamp Theatre. 7.30pm.

Apr 5, *Rumpelstiltskin and The Wheel of Fortune*, presented by the Theatre of Widdershins. £6, family ticket £22. 11.30am and 2.30pm.

Apr 5, Jack The Ripper. A 21st-century investigation. Trevor Marriot talks about his lengthy investigation into The Whitechapel Murders, disclosing the new results. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm.

Apr 8, psychic Tony Stockwell. 7.30pm. £16 adv; £18 on the door.

Apr 9, *The Sagas of Noggin The Nog*. A company of Viking storytellers recreates the charming world created by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin. Actors, puppets, projections and live music. Presented by Third Party Productions. 11.30am and 2.30pm. £7, family ticket £24. Box office: 01295 279002.

#### The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Apr 5, Seann Walsh – *Seann To Be Wild*. Sharp, observational comedy from the star of BBC1's *Live at the Apollo* and Channel 4's *Stand Up For The Week*. £13, conc £11. 7.45pm.

Apr 6, *Stuck*. A new production for families and young children from award-winning author Oliver Jeffers. With original music and plenty of audience participation. £8.50. 11.30am and 2.30pm.

Apr 10, *Mess*. A play with songs from Caroline Horton unflinchingly confronting big issues (and tiny ones). Presented by China Plate. £13, concession £11. 7.45pm. Box office: 01608 642350.

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# CakeSport

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## Albi hammers home hat-trick

### LATEST TABLES

#### EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leamington	35	24	4	7	69	41	76
Hemel Hemp	36	20	6	10	85	60	66
Stourbridge	35	19	8	8	73	34	65
Chesham Utd	36	17	10	9	58	44	61
Gosport Bor	35	16	12	7	66	34	60
Weymouth	37	17	7	13	56	61	58
Barwell	34	16	9	9	57	42	57
St Albans C	36	17	5	14	71	60	56
Cambridge C	34	16	4	14	49	46	52
Arlesey Tn	33	15	6	12	51	41	51
Bedford Tn	35	15	6	14	50	45	51
AFC Totton	36	14	7	15	58	62	49
St Neots Tn	35	14	6	15	70	65	48
<b>Banbury Utd</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>46</b>
Bideford	35	11	8	16	54	60	41
Bashley	35	11	7	17	40	55	40
Hitchin Tn	34	11	4	19	49	60	37
Frome Tn	35	9	9	17	33	49	36
Redditch Utd	34	10	6	18	29	53	36
Chippinham	34	7	12	15	40	55	33
Bedworth Utd	33	8	8	17	31	58	32
*Kettering Tn	34	4	7	23	35	90	9

\* 10pts deducted

**ALBI Skendi claimed a hat-trick for Banbury to ease home to a comfortable win at Spencer Stadium in the Premier Division on Saturday.**

It saw the Puritans end St Neots' five-match unbeaten run.

Banbury came out of the blocks quickly, with Kynan Isaac's 25-yard shot tipped around a post by visiting keeper Jack Giddens on three minutes, before the hosts went ahead 60 seconds later.

A cross from the right by Michael Hopkins found

**Banbury Utd 3**  
(Skendi 4, 20, 72)  
**St Neots Tn 1**  
(Adjei 78)

Akendi, who headed home at the far post past Giddens.

Banbury doubled their tally when Skendi fastened on to a through ball before taking the ball around Giddens and slotting into the empty net.

At the start of the second half, Banbury keeper Warren Carter was forced to make a number of saves.

At the other end, Isaac was denied by Giddens low to his

right on 63 minutes.

Banbury kept up the pressure and duly made it 3-0. A right wing corner from Hopkins found Skendi who headed in at the near post to complete his treble.

Although Ed Adjei cut the deficit with a long-distance strike, Banbury eased in with little difficulty.

**Banbury Utd:** Carter, Cray, Martin, Ashton (Blossom 64), Ryan, Polk, Sc Bridges, Talabi (White 70), Skendi, Isaac, Hopkins (R Plowright 85). Subs not used: W Plowright, A Dumbleton.

**Attendance:** 292.



Hat-trick: Banbury United player Albi Skendi

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### Wimbledon

**Departs 6 & 7 July 2013**

This is your chance to soak up the unique atmosphere of Wimbledon over the final weekend, savouring those famous strawberries and cream – celebrity spotting, before taking your seat on No.1 Court, to watch the stars of tomorrow and yesteryear compete in the finals of the Junior and Veterans' events.

#### Price includes

- Return coach travel
- One night's B&B at a three-star hotel in the London area
- A full day at Wimbledon with a reserved seat on No.1 Court
- A visit to Windsor
- The services of a Tour Manager



# CakeProperty

banburycake.co.uk/homes

## Home packed with potential

By Gill Oliver

**A PROPERTY with a host of original features and vast potential has come on the market near Banbury.**

The Old Farmhouse, in Mollington, is a charming 17th-century Grade II listed detached property, set in gardens stretching to a quarter of an acre.

Features include mullion leaded windows, shutters, flagstone floors, brace and latch doors, exposed beams and two inglenook fireplaces. Agents say the new owner would be able to sympathetically put their own stamp on the house by extending the current accommodation in the unconverted part of the property.

The ground floor includes a drawing room, sitting room and kitchen/dining room, while there

is also a two-room cellar. On the first floor there is a master bedroom with window overlooking the garden and fields beyond; two further bedrooms, one of which is ensuite and a family bathroom.

The additional accommodation, or separate self-contained unit, has the potential for three rooms on the ground floor and two on the first floor.

Outside there is parking for several vehicles and the garden stretches around three sides, featuring a variety of fruit trees.

There are also a number of outbuildings that could also be converted.

The Old Farmhouse, Mollington, is on the market for £750,000.

For more information or to book a viewing, contact agents Mark David on 01295 273272 or see [www.mark-david.co.uk](http://www.mark-david.co.uk)



The Old Farmhouse, Mollington, is on the market for £750,000

### STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

#### ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Arguments occurring in the family at this time could see you taking the blame for something which was not your fault. This is one time where I advocate you standing up and making a fuss. Fake friends aren't worth having, so do the right thing and say goodbye now, not when it's too late. Ring now to hear how the Moon offers you the power to seduce this weekend.

**0906 585 4360**

#### LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You think you're doing the right thing by giving in to a close one but will they actually have learnt anything if you do? Your stars suggest not. Clearly Saturn gives you on Wednesday tells you your answers plus more. You know you need brains and beauty so stop pretending otherwise and make your life count. Ring now to hear who I think your perfect partner in life should be.

**0906 585 4366**

#### TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

The hard work you have put into relationships lately has really started to pay off and you'll get proof of that this week Taurus. You may have to cover your tracks from the last few day's dramas but careful as your polar opposites, Scorpios, know more than they say. There will come a point when you will have to admit what's going on and the sooner the better. Ring now for a game plan.

**0906 585 4361**

#### SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You don't want to have a bit more of a predictable week so you can get things done and not feel as if you are lagging behind. All you need is positive thinking. Distance yourself from those who bring you down Scorpio. Deals you think will fail can succeed, especially if you speak with honesty and be yourself this week. Ring now to hear what Mars is planning to add to your month.

**0906 585 4367**

#### GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your work and your personal life are starting to clash but it doesn't look as if there is anything you can do about this until after Thursday. Try not to take sides as you could end up out in the cold when you find out how closely those around you are linked. Look out for unexpected visitors who are set to bring with them a most attractive and compatible new face. Ring me so I can tell you more.

**0906 585 4362**

#### SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

I can see from your chart that you miss part of a life you gave up. Does that mean you should go back there? Well that's a hard question Sagittarius, and one which neither you nor I can answer lightly. Time is your new best friend. Use it well. Look in the eyes of the people you meet this week. You can tell much about yourself if you do. Phone now so we can talk revelations.

**0906 585 4368**

#### CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Too much time worrying about what might happen rather than what is happening right now has left you drained and disillusioned. You keep talking about saying sorry, but you only have one more week to make your apologies as a close one's faith is wearing thin. Work you do for others will not give anything back unless you ask for it from the outset. Call now for a love prediction to surprise.

**0906 585 4363**

#### CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You don't want to have quite so many responsibilities in your life now do you Capricorn? However, anything you want to change cannot happen overnight so avoid hasty and rash decisions and plan slowly. Any crossovers with your finances are well starred now. A friend's words may well have been more from jealousy than fact, my friend, so try not to react. Ring now for a full reading.

**0906 585 4369**

#### LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

Don't let your temper get the better of you but try to focus on the constructive rather than the destructive. Lots of people with power want to help you now so make sure you're presenting yourself in the best possible light. Be nice to Gemini. They can help you to improve those funds in time for you to embark on travel that friends will be talking about. Phone for your life in full now.

**0906 585 4364**

#### AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

There needs to be a little more honest talking around you. If not, you could end up making a decision this week which is in no one's best interests. Don't let events that took place in the past stop you from proceeding with the exciting future which lies ahead of you. The Moon brings others secrets into your possession on Monday. Call now to hear how they may affect your future.

**0906 585 4370**

#### VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Work takes precedence this week and you started to work out how you can better your career and make it more suited to your needs. Although you're good at working for others, you're better off having the power to plan your own schedule. This could soon be possible. If love is the answer, could you rephrase the question, what games are you trying to play? Phone now to reveal your future.

**0906 585 4365**

#### PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

Many of you Pisces are going to be given an ultimatum in love, and although it is not a fair one, it is one which has to be answered. Use Thursday for some real soul searching when you'll be able to think long term and not just short term. People are talking about you but you can relax as, for once, they are all behind you my friend. You can hold your head high. Call now if you want to hear more.

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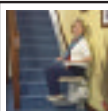
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# CakeMotoring

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## Spanish supermini shouts look at Mii

By David Duffy

**YOU can always rely on Spanish car maker SEAT to put a smile on your face, even with the smallest, soberest city car.**

The SEAT Mii (pronounced me) lines up alongside its sister vehicles, the Volkswagen up! and Skoda Citigo, but while they are being marketed as super-sensible four-seaters, the SEAT version has put its glad rags on. Within weeks of the SEAT Mii going on sale in the UK, the striking Vibora Negra — which means black viper in Spanish — was unveiled. Adding about £1,700 to the price of the Mii, the styling pack transforms a smart little car into a visually aggressive hatchback. Individual items are available to buy from dealers, so owners can pick and mix which elements of the pack that they want to buy. From twin stripes, 15-inch black alloy wheels and tailgate spoiler, to side skirts and mirror caps, it certainly catches the eye.

Just as eye-catching though is the cost of owning the car, which is powered by a low-emission, 1.0-litre, three-cylinder petrol engine, with a choice of 60 or 75 bhp outputs. With space for four adults and a decent boot, the car is nippy, lightweight and easy to manoeuvre around town, while still having sufficient beef to easily cope with

long-distance motorway travel.

Build quality is superb and that translates into a comfortable, rattle-free ride. While it is the least expensive model in the SEAT range, the car has plenty of technology on board. Most prominent is the so-called SEAT Portable System, a smartphone-sized, removable device with a five-inch touchscreen that clips on to a dashboard-mounted holder. It combines satellite-navigation, Bluetooth phone connectivity, an on-board computer and audio playback via SD card. Again, despite its size, the Mii has big-car safety features, ranging from anti-lock brakes and four airbags as standard across the range. But most impressive is the availability, for £200, of the City Safety Assist system, which automatically applies the brakes in the event of a potential frontal collision. The system works at



**AGGRESSIVE STYLING:** The Vibora Negra pack gives the Mii a more striking appearance

19mph or below by using a laser mounted behind the rear view mirror. If an imminent collision is detected, the system primes the brakes and if the driver makes no effort to slow the car, it applies them — hard. I have tried the system in the sister VW up! and it works. It should be fitted as standard.

The Mii range begins at £7,845, meaning a Vibora Negra can be put on the road for under £9,500. And with a three-year warranty, two-year roadside assistance package, there are a few more reasons to make you grin.

### Auto facts

**Model:** SEAT Mii Sport Vibora Negra  
**Price:** £11,280  
**Ins group:** 2 (1-50)  
**Fuel consumption:** (Combined): 60.1mpg  
**Top speed:** 106mph  
**Length:** 355.7cm/140in  
**Width:** 164.1cm/64.6in  
**Luggage capacity:** 8.8 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 7.7 gallons/35 litres  
**CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:** 108g/km  
**Warranty:** Three years/60,000 miles

## Breakdownservicescene

## Matchbox 'magic box' will aid repairs

A NATIONAL breakdown service is launching a new "magic box" which will relay crucial information from members' cars to mobile mechanics before they even reach stricken vehicles.

The RAC says its RAC Advance early warning system can also act as an instant alert if the car is involved in a serious accident. The box, which is the size of a matchbox and will be available to all RAC members during this year, will remotely communicate with the firm's base to provide diagnostic information which could potentially identify certain vehicle faults before the mechanic arrives at the scene.

It also gives crews an accurate location for the stranded motorist, acts as a record of incidents and can provide drivers with data to help their driving efficiency and keep down running costs, the RAC said.

The breakdown service said its 1,700 patrol vehicles have already been fitted with the device and more than 35,000 fleet vehicles in the UK are already using the technology. The firm said the box could be accessed via an app on the driver's phone.

RAC technical director David Bizley said: "Offering peace of mind in a box, RAC Advance will revolutionise how we deal

with our members. We know that some breakdowns can be avoided with a pre-emptive warning and intervention and this will significantly advance how we are able to deal with an actual breakdown or accident, reassuring members that they are in safe hands."

Meanwhile, Ford's Focus ST hot hatchback has become the best-selling car in its class, according to research. It cites research by automotive data analysis firm Polk, which says the 1,984 sales between October and December last year gave it 44% of the market, ahead of the Golf GTI on 33% and the Renaultsport Mégane on 12%.

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■ **BUYERS** hunting for a racier-looking Skoda Citigo are in luck with the announcement of a Sport edition of the highly regarded city car. It has exterior stripes and new alloy wheels, a 15mm lower ride height, front and rear spoilers and a mock rear diffuser. It is available in three- and five-door models. At £10,290, the three-door version is £350 cheaper than the five-door, which costs £10,640.

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2005 54	VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTI DIESEL CLUB, 5 Door, Black, Alloys, Radio/CD, Remote central locking, Aircon, PAS, Electric windows/mirrors, Good service record lovely condition throughout, Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear.....	£3,395
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③ PAYMENTS FROM £10 A WEEK ✓

## WE STILL SAY YES TO CAR FINANCE PLUS

# Need a Car? Can't get credit?



We like  
to say  
Yes!

**96% Acceptance Rate, No Deposit  
PLUS Decision Within An Hour**

- » CCJs/Defaults » Poor Credit History
- » Council tax arrears » Mortgage arrears
- » A member of our armed forces
- » Self-employed

- » Full or Part Time Work
- » UK or EU Licence » No Cash Deposit
- » Retired » Ex Bankrupts
- » Just moved over from abroad

Easy  
1 minute  
Online  
Application



**Can't Get Credit? You Can Now!**

- ✓ 21 years or older?
- ✓ A full UK or EU Driving Licence?
- ✓ UK resident?
- Then apply online now and let us do the work!

Your one stop shop for cars and finance apply online at

**www.carcreditbanbury.co.uk**  
**Call us on 01295 298 513**

\*Typical Finance example: Cash Price £999, deposit of £1000, balance to finance £799 plus charges for credit £209.50. Payable by 50 monthly payments of £166.31 plus one final payment of £166.31, total amount payable £1098.60, 5.9% APR. Credit provided subject to status, guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply.

### A SMALL SELECTION OF OUR STOCK

WEEKLY FROM

**BENIMAR 6000 EUROPA 6 BERTH MOTORHOME**, COOKER, FRIDGE, FULL BATHROOM, HOT AND COLD WATER, LOCAL OWNER FROM NEW, SOLAR POWER, TV POINT, LOUNGE AREA AND DINING AREA FULL AIRCON ..... £70 ..... £14999

DIESEL CARS			
04	54	BMW 118D SE, 5 Door, Black, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, 6 Speed, Elec Windows	£30 ..... £6499
06	56	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI 105 MATCH, Blue, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbags	£28 ..... £5999
08	08	RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 DCI DYNAMIQUE 150 DCI, Black, Sports Interior, A/C, CD, Alloys	£27 ..... £5499
06	06	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 1.9 TDI SE ESTATE, Black, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£25 ..... £5499
03	03	FORD FOCUS 1.8 LX TDCI, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£19 ..... £3999
03	03	CHRYSLER PT CRUISER CRD DIESEL TOURING, Candy Red, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbag	£17 ..... £3699
03	53	FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI GHIA, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, Alloys, Airbags, Huge Mpg!	£14 ..... £2999

PETROL CARS & MPVS			
07	57	PEUGEOT 308 1.6SE AUTO, Dark Blue Metallic, Full Glass Roof, A/C, CD, 18000 Miles	£32 ..... £6999
07	57	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S, 5 Door, Dark Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows, Only 34000 Miles	£28 ..... £5999
07	56	PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£27 ..... £5699
03	53	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.6 CONVERTIBLE, 1.6 Silver, Electric Roof, Elec Windows, Airbags	£27 ..... £5699
07	07	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT 3.2 SEL DSG 4 MOTION, Blue, A/C, CD, Alloys, Massive Spec	£27 ..... £5699
07	57	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA, 5 Door, Bright Blue, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£26 ..... £5499
07	57	KIA CEE'D 1.6, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£25 ..... £5299
07	07	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE, Silver, 5 Door, A/C, CD, Alloys, Card Start	£21 ..... £4499
07	56	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LOOK, 5 Door, Dark, Silver, A/C, Elec Windows, Low Insurance	£21 ..... £4499
05	55	CITROEN C4 1.6 VTR PLUS, 5 Door, Blue, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£21 ..... £4499
03	03	HONDA CIVIC 1.4, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Air Bags, Elec Windows, Only 44000 Miles	£19 ..... £3999
06	56	FORD MONDEO 1.8 5 DOOR ZETEC, Silver, A/C, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£19 ..... £3999
06	56	CHEVROLET LACETTI 1.6 SX, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Wheels, Elec Windows, Airbags	£19 ..... £3999
05	05	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Parking Sensors	£19 ..... £3999
03	03	JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.5 SE AUTO, Light Gold With Full Cream Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys	£19 ..... £3999
04	54	FORD MONDEO 1.8 5 DOOR ZETEC, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£17 ..... £3699
03	03	NISSAN MICRA 1.4 SE AUTOMATIC, 5 Door, Metallic Gold, A/C, Keyless Start, CD	£17 ..... £3699
03	03	PEUGEOT 307 1.4 S, 5 Door, Blue, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbag	£16 ..... £3499
04	04	FIAT PUNTO 1.25 ACTIV, Dark Silver, 5 Door, A/C, CD, Only 22000 Miles From New!	£16 ..... £3499
04	54	FORD MONDEO 1.8 5 DOOR ZETEC, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows	£16 ..... £3499
03	03	FORD FOCUS 1.4, 5 Door, Dark Green, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£16 ..... £3499
03	03	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2 E, 5 Door, Dark Green, A/C, Power Steering, Elec Windows	£16 ..... £3499
04	04	FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX, 5 Door, Light Green, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbag, Elec Windows	£16 ..... £3499
04	54	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN AUTO, 5 Door, Dark Red, A/C, CD, Airbags, Elec Windows	£16 ..... £3499
04	04	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE, 3 Door, Blue, PAS, CD, Airbag, Elec Windows	£14 ..... £2999
05	05	FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC AUTOMATIC, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£14 ..... £2999
03	03	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI, 3 Door, Met Gold, Elec Windows, Airbags, CD	£14 ..... £2999
03	03	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB, Green, A/C, CD, Alloys, One Owner From New	£14 ..... £2999
04	04	VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LS, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbags	£14 ..... £2999
04	04	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE, Dark Red, Power Steering, Airbag, Great Starter Car	£14 ..... £2999
03	03	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION, 3 Door, Silver, Elec Windows, Airbags, Ideal First Car	£13 ..... £2699
04	04	FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£13 ..... £2699
02	52	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI, Green, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£13 ..... £2699
02	02	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SXI, Silver, 5 Door, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Air Bags	£13 ..... £2699
02	52	CITROEN C3 1.4 LX, Light Green, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbags, Ideal First Car	£12 ..... £2699
05	05	KIA RIO 1.3 LE ESTATE, Bright Blue, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, Airbags	£12 ..... £2699
04	54	HYUNDAI MATRIX 1.6 GSI, Green, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£12 ..... £2699
03	03	FORD FIESTA 1.4ZETEC, 3 Door, Silver, A/C, Elec Windows, Airbags, Ideal First Car	£12 ..... £2599
01	51	HONDA ACCORD 1.8 VTEC, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Airbags, Elec Windows	£12 ..... £2499
03	03	DAEWOO MATIZ SE, 5 Door, Blue, Only 798cc! Very Low Insurance Group, A/C, CD	£12 ..... £2499
01	51	SKODA FABIA 1.4 5 DOOR CLASSIC, Green, Elec Windows, PAS, CD, Airbags	£12 ..... £2499
01	51	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX, 5 Door, Cyprus Green, A/C, CD, Elec Windows, PAS, Ideal First Car	£12 ..... £2499
01	51	FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£11 ..... £2299
04	54	FORD KA 1.2, Blue, Elec Windows, Airbag, Ideal First Car	£11 ..... £2299
03	03	FIAT PUNTO 1.25 ACTIVE SPORT, Silver, 3 Door, CD, Airbag, PAS, Ideal First Car	£9 ..... £1999
MPV'S & 4X4'S			
06	06	HYUNDAI TUCSON CRTD GSI, Diesel, Black, A/C, CD, Alloys, A/C, Running Boards	£35 ..... £7499
08	08	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA CDTI DESIGN, Dark Blue, A/C, CD, Alloys, 7 Seats, Airbags	£33 ..... £6999
04	54	HYUNDAI TUCSON CRTD CDX DIESEL, Silver, Full Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£27 ..... £5699
01	Y	LANDROVER ROVER DHSE AUTO, Wine Red, Cream Leather, All The Usual Spec!	£26 ..... £5499
06	06	TOYOTA COROLLA VERSO 1.8 7 SEAT, Silver, A/C, CD, 7 Seats, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£26 ..... £5699
02	52	HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.3, Dark Red, A/C, CD, Alloys, Elec Windows, Airbags	£17 ..... £3699
05	55	NISSAN ALMERA TINO S AUTOMATIC, Silver, 1/2 Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£16 ..... £3499
03	03	FIAT MULTIPLA 2.0 JTD DIESEL, Silver, 6 Seats, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Great Family Car	£15 ..... £3299
01	Y	DAIHATSU TERIOS EL 1.3 AUTO, Black, Elec Windows, CD, Airbags, A/C	£15 ..... £3299

**VISIT US - AYNHO ROAD, ADDERBURY, BANBURY OX17 3NY OPEN 7 DAYS**  
**ALSO LARGE CHOICE OF SMALL HATCHBACK CARS UP TO £3000!!**



# Banbury Cake

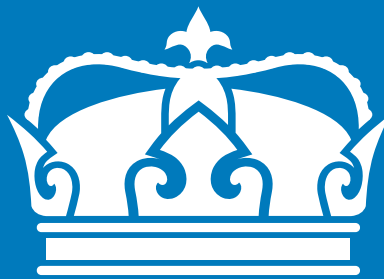
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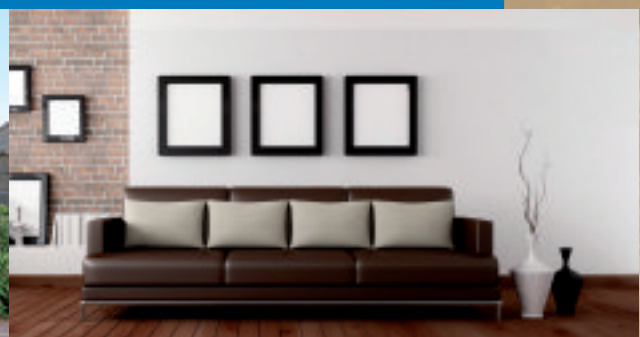


The Oxford Times

# SPRING NEW OPEN HOMES WEEKEND

SATURDAY 6th APRIL & SUNDAY 7th APRIL

THE CHANCE TO  
**WIN £500 OF VOUCHERS**  
IN A PRIZE DRAW FOR THOSE  
ATTENDING OVER THE WEEKEND



Plan your weekend, promote your new homes  
venue to 1,000's of oxford clients







**Worcester Greenstar  
gas-fired condensing  
boiler range.**

## **Winner of 23 Which? Best Buys in 2011 and 2012.**

For the second year running,  
the Worcester Greenstar gas-fired condensing boiler  
range scooped 23 Best Buys and was voted the most  
popular gas boiler brand among Which? members.  
In addition, no other manufacturer scored higher on  
reliability and customer satisfaction for both  
gas and oil-fired appliances.

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